

Applicant : Rian R. Maloney
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Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for imaging checks, each check comprising a financial instrument associated with a financial institution, comprising:

an image capture host coupled to a sorter operable to sort a plurality of checks, to retrieve data from the checks and to record digital images of the checks, the image capture host operable to obtain the digital images of the checks recorded by the sorter;

a processing system communicably coupled to the sorter and the image capture host and operable to:

process each check based on the data retrieved from the check by the sorter in order to generate processing data for the check; and

to store previous pass information for each check for which processing data was previously generated, the previous pass information comprising at least a portion of the previously generated processing data; and

at least one computer-processable medium storing a database external to the sorter and coupled to the image capture host, the database operable to store the digital images of the checks obtained by the image capture host and the previous pass information; and

wherein, in the event of restarting processing for at least a subset of the plurality of checks, the image capture host is further operable to:

obtain the processing data generated for each check previously processed by the processing system; and

automatically determine whether processing data was previously generated for a specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, to obtain at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check from the database via the processing system such that the specified check is not ~~substantively~~ reprocessed in order to generate processing data for the specified check.

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the image capture host further operable to generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for a specified check and the digital image of the specified check.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the image capture host further operable to generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check, the digital image of the specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, the sorter comprising a digital camera, the digital camera coupled to the image capture host and operable to record the digital images of the checks and to transmit the digital images of the checks to the image capture host.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, the digital camera further operable to transmit the digital images of the checks to the image capture host using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

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9. (Currently Amended) A method for imaging checks, each check comprising a financial instrument associated with a financial institution, comprising:

retrieving data from a plurality of checks at a sorter;
processing each check based on the data retrieved from the check in order to generate processing data for the check;

in the event of processing failure and restart:

automatically determining whether processing data was previously generated for a specified check; and

automatically obtaining at least a portion of previous pass information from a database external to the sort for the specified check if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, the previous pass information comprising at least a portion of the previously generated processing data such that the specified check is not ~~substantively~~ reprocessed in order to generate processing data for the specified check;

identifying a subset of the checks for imaging based on the processing data for each of the checks;

recording digital images of the identified checks;

obtaining the recorded digital images of the checks using TCP/IP; and

storing the obtained digital images of the checks in the database external to the sorter.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, obtaining the recorded digital images of the checks comprising receiving the recorded digital images of the checks from a digital camera.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for a specified check and the digital image of the specified check.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check, the digital image of the specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check.

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15. (Currently Amended) A system for imaging checks, comprising logic comprising executable instructions stored on at least one computer-processable medium and operable to:

obtain digital images of a plurality of checks from a sorter using TCP/IP, each check comprising a financial instrument associated with a financial institution;

determine whether processing data was previously generated for a specified check and to obtain at least a portion of previous pass information from a database external to the sorter for the specified check if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, the previous pass information comprising at least a portion of the previously generated processing data;

if processing data was not previously generated for the specified check, generate processing data for the specified check based, at least in part, on the digital image obtained from the sorter; and

generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check and the digital image of the specified check.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, the logic further operable to obtain the digital images of the checks by receiving the digital images of the checks from a digital camera for the sorter.

17-19 (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, the logic further operable to generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check, the digital image of the specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check.

21. (Withdrawn)

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22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (Withdrawn)

25. (Withdrawn)

26. (Withdrawn)